

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 123**

2 (By Delegates Perry, Hall, Moore, Reynolds, Cann,
3 Ferns, Frazier, Hartman, Iaquinta, Mahan, Manchin,
4 Michael, Shaver, Stowers, Ashley, Walters,
5 Carmichael, Nelson, and O'Neal)

6
7 (Originating in the Committee on Banking and Insurance)

8
9 (March 3, 2011)
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11 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the
12 feasibility of requiring coverage for eosinophilic disorders
13 by accident and sickness insurance, Public Employees Insurance
14 Agency plans and Medicaid.

15 WHEREAS, Eosinophilic disorders occur when eosinophils, a type
16 of white blood cell, are found in above-normal amounts in various
17 parts of the body; and

18 WHEREAS, When the body wants to attack a substance, such as an
19 allergen, eosinophils respond by moving into the area and releasing
20 a variety of toxins, and when the body produces too many
21 eosinophils, they can cause chronic inflammation, resulting in
22 tissue damage; and

23 WHEREAS, These rare diseases are diagnosed according to where
24 the elevated levels of eosinophils are found and include:
25 Eosinophilic esophagitis (esophagus); Eosinophilic gastritis
26 (stomach); Eosinophilic enteritis (small intestine); Eosinophilic
27 colitis (large intestine); and Hypereosinophilic syndrome (blood
28 and any organ); and

1 WHEREAS, Having been considered rare in the past, the diagnosis
2 of eosinophilic disorders are on the rise; and

3 WHEREAS, The symptoms of these disorders vary depending on the
4 area of the gastrointestinal tract affected by the eosinophils and
5 generally include nausea, vomiting, malnutrition, and pain; and

6 WHEREAS, Accurate diagnosis of eosinophilic disorders is only
7 found through endoscopy with a biopsy of the affected area and the
8 ability to track the numbers of diagnoses through medical coding
9 have only been available since 2008; and

10 WHEREAS, Treatment of the disorders include dietary management
11 and medications, with routine endoscopies to track the progress of
12 treatment;

13 WHEREAS, There is currently no cure for eosinophilic
14 disorders; treatment options work best by combining multiple
15 therapies to treat the symptoms over the course of the patient's
16 lifetime; and

17 WHEREAS, Children suffering from these disorders often show
18 signs of failure to thrive and require surgical implantation of a
19 feeding tube directly to their stomach to be sure they receive
20 adequate nutrition; and

21 WHEREAS, Persons suffering from these disorders that require
22 feeding tubes also require nutrient supplements that cost as much
23 as \$1000 per month and in many instances this expense is not
24 covered; and

1 WHEREAS, There is growing public concern about the
2 availability of full and adequate health insurance coverage for
3 treatment of eosinophilic disorders; therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

5 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
6 requested to study the feasibility of requiring coverage for
7 eosinophilic disorders by accident and sickness insurance, Public
8 Employees Insurance Agency plans and Medicaid; and, be it

9 *Further Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Government and
10 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular
11 session, 2012, on its findings, conclusions and recommendations,
12 together with drafts of legislation necessary to effectuate its
13 recommendations; and, be it

14 *Further Resolved,* That the expense necessary to conduct this
15 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be
16 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on
17 Government and Finance.